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BUSH OKD BY COMMITTEE

By Norman Kempster
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The Senate Armed Services Committee today approved the nomination of George Bush to be CIA director after President Ford agreed to drop him as a potential vice presidential candidate.

The vote to approve the nomination was 12-4, and several of the senators who supported Bush indi-

cated they were persuaded to do so only by Ford's action.

Bush, who had said during his confirmation hearing that he would not be active in politics but would not surrender his "political birthright" by taking himself out of the vice presidential running, met last night at the White House with Ford, where the new strategy was determined.

IN A LETTER to Committee Chairman John Stennis, D-Miss., the President said, "I will not consider him as my vice presidential running mate in 1976.

"The nation's immediate foreign intelligence needs take precedence over other considerations," Ford said.

The committee voted on the nomination after an hour-long closed-door discussion of Bush's qualifications.

The public was readmitted to the committee room in time to hear Sen. Stennis read the President's letter and call for the roll call vote.

BUSH RESIGNED his post as U.S. special envoy to China to accept the appointment to succeed the present director of intelligence, William E. Colby.

However, it was Bush's previous service as Republican national chairman during the hectic two years between the 1972 election and Richard M. Nixon's resignation last year that produced most of the controversy.

Sens. Thomas J. McIntyre, D-N.H., Gary Hart, D-Colo., Patrick J. Leahy, D-Vt., and John Culver, D-Iowa, voted against Bush on the grounds he was too political for the job even after having been removed from the vice presidential contest.

But Sens. Stuart Symington, D-Mo., and Howard W. Cannon, D-Nev., both said they decided to support Bush on the basis of Ford's decision. Several other

senators who had apparently been wavering may also have been convinced by the President's action.

Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Frank Church, D-Idaho, had said he would continue to oppose Bush's nomination, but would not lead a concerted campaign against it if Bush were taken out of the vice presidential picture.

THE NOMINATION now goes to the Senate floor, where confirmation is considered likely. However, the matter will not be considered until after Congress returns from its holiday recess next month.

Stennis conferred with Ford's chief lobbyist, White House counselor John Marsh, before today's committee meeting. Sources said the two men discussed the nomination and Marsh repeated Ford's assurance that Bush would not be considered for the vice presidency.

In his letter Ford said there was a need for continuity in the CIA post. Some committee members had complained that Bush's tenure would be less than six months if he was selected as Ford's running mate.

"I need and the nation needs his leadership at CIA as we rebuild the foreign intelligence community," Ford wrote.